

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-9. (withdrawn)

10. (currently amended) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition, which is a styrene copolymer reinforced with a rubber polymer, and has an acetone soluble resin component having a monomer composition comprising 5 to 70% by weight of aromatic vinyl monomer, 30 to 95% by weight of unsaturated carboxylic acid alkyl ester monomer, 0 to 50% by weight of vinyl cyanide monomer, and 0 to 50% by weight of another monomer copolymerizable with these monomers, the acid value of the acetone soluble resin component being 0.01 to 1 mgKOH/g, the method ~~comprising~~ comprising:

continuously bulk polymerizing or continuously solution polymerizing a vinyl monomer mixture (a) to obtain a copolymer (A);

removing residual monomer from the copolymer (A) following the continuous bulk polymerization or the continuous solution polymerization of the vinyl monomer mixture (a);

during or after the step of removing the residual monomer from the copolymer (A), adding 90 to 5 parts by weight of a graft

copolymer (B) to melt-blending 10 to 95 parts by weight of a copolymer (A) ~~obtained by polymerizing a vinyl monomer mixture (a)~~ in a melt state and melt-blending the graft copolymer (B) and copolymer (A), and 90 to 5% by weight of a said graft copolymer (B) being obtained by graft-polymerizing a vinyl monomer mixture (c) in the presence of a rubber polymer (b) and having a moisture content of 0.1% or more by weight and less than 5% by weight, the vinyl monomer mixtures (a) and (c) each being independently a monomer mixture comprising 5 to 70% by weight of (a1) aromatic vinyl monomer, 30 to 95% by weight of (a2) unsaturated carboxylic acid alkyl ester monomer, 0 to 50% by weight of (a3) vinyl cyanide monomer, and 0 to 50% by weight of (a4) another monomer copolymerizable with these monomers, and containing (a5) substantially no unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer other than the unsaturated carboxylic acid alkyl ester monomer (a2), and the graft copolymer (B) containing 0.1 to 5% by weight of an emulsifier.

11-13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition according to ~~Claim 13~~ Claim 10, wherein the graft copolymer (B) is added to the copolymer (A) when an amount of the residual monomer in the copolymer (A) is 10% by weight or less.

15. (currently amended) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition according to Claim 14, wherein assuming that the actual volume of a melt-blending portion of an apparatus, in which the copolymer (A) and the graft copolymer (B) are ~~transferred while being~~ melt-blended, is V (m^3), the temperature is T ($^{\circ}C$), and the moving velocity of the resin composition finally discharged is v (kg/h), the following conditions ① and ② are satisfied:

$$4.60 \times 10^{-6} (m^3 \cdot h/kg) \leq V/v \leq 11.50 \times 10^{-6} (m^3 \cdot h/kg) \quad \dots \text{①}$$

$$T \geq 230 \quad (^{\circ}C) \quad \dots \text{②}.$$

16. (currently amended) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition according to ~~Claim~~

~~13~~ Claim 10, wherein the graft copolymer (B) added to the copolymer (A) is in a semi-melt or melt state.

17. (previously amended) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition according to Claim 16, wherein the temperature of the graft copolymer (B) added to the copolymer (A) is 100 to 220°C.

18. (previously amended) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition according to Claim 10 or Claim 22, wherein 0.1 to 5% by weight of water relative to the resin composition is added in the course of the melt-blending of the copolymer (A) and the graft copolymer (B).

19. (withdrawn)

20. (previously amended) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition according to Claim 21, wherein the pelletized thermoplastic resin (C) has an average particle diameter of 1 to 10 mm.

21. (currently amended) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition, ~~comprising~~
comprising:

~~mixing in a melt state 90 to 5 parts by weight of a graft copolymer (B), obtained by graft polymerizing a vinyl monomer mixture (c) with a rubber polymer, with 10 to 95 parts by weight of copolymer (A) obtained by continuous bulk polymerization or continuous solution polymerization of a vinyl monomer mixture (a)~~

continuously bulk polymerizing or continuously solution polymerizing a vinyl monomer mixture (a) to obtain a copolymer (A);

removing residual monomer from the copolymer (A) following the continuous bulk polymerization or the continuous solution polymerization of the vinyl monomer mixture (a);

during or after the step of removing the residual monomer from the copolymer (A), adding 90 to 5 parts by weight of a graft copolymer (B) to 10 to 95 parts by weight of a copolymer (A) in a melt state and melt-blending the graft copolymer (B) and copolymer (A), said graft copolymer (B) being obtained by graft-polymerizing a vinyl monomer mixture (c) in the presence of a rubber polymer (b) and having a moisture content of 0.1% or more by weight and less

than 5% by weight, the vinyl monomer mixtures (a) and (c) each being independently a monomer mixture comprising 5 to 70% by weight of (a1) aromatic vinyl monomer, 30 to 95% by weight of (a2) unsaturated carboxylic acid alkyl ester monomer, 0 to 50% by weight of (a3) vinyl cyanide monomer, and 0 to 50% by weight of (a4) another monomer copolymerizable with these monomers, and containing (a5) substantially no unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer other than the unsaturated carboxylic acid alkyl ester monomer (a2), and the graft copolymer (B) containing 0.1 to 30% by weight of a pelletized thermoplastic resin (C) added and mixed therewith in a melt or semi-melt state, and which is a part or the whole of the resin composition or the copolymer (A) obtained in the continuous bulk polymerization or continuous solution polymerization of vinyl monomer mixture (a).

22. (currently amended) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition, which is a styrene copolymer reinforced with a rubber polymer, and has an acetone soluble resin component having a monomer composition comprising 5 to 70% by weight of aromatic vinyl monomer, 30 to 95%

by weight of unsaturated carboxylic acid alkyl ester monomer, 0 to 50% by weight of vinyl cyanide monomer, and 0 to 50% by weight of another monomer copolymerizable with these monomers, the acid value of the acetone soluble resin component being 0.01 to 1 mgKOH/g, the method ~~comprising~~ comprising:

~~melt blending 10 to 95 parts by weight of a copolymer (A) obtained by polymerizing a vinyl monomer mixture (a), and 90 to 5% by weight of a graft copolymer (B) obtained by graft polymerizing a vinyl monomer mixture (c) in the presence of a rubber polymer (b)~~

continuously bulk polymerizing or continuously solution polymerizing a vinyl monomer mixture (a) to obtain a copolymer (A);

removing residual monomer from the copolymer (A) following the continuous bulk polymerization or the continuous solution polymerization of the vinyl monomer mixture (a);

during or after the step of removing the residual monomer from the copolymer (A), adding 90 to 5 parts by weight of a graft copolymer (B) to 10 to 95 parts by weight of a copolymer (A) in a melt state and melt-blending the graft copolymer (B) and copolymer (A), said graft copolymer (B) being obtained by graft-polymerizing a vinyl monomer mixture (c) in the presence of a rubber polymer (b)

and having a moisture content of 0.1% or more by weight and less than 5% by weight, the vinyl monomer mixtures (a) and (c) each being independently a monomer mixture comprising 5 to 70% by weight of (a1) aromatic vinyl monomer, 30 to 95% by weight of (a2) unsaturated carboxylic acid alkyl ester monomer, 0 to 50% by weight of (a3) vinyl cyanide monomer, and 0 to 50% by weight of (a4) another monomer copolymerizable with these monomers, and the graft copolymer (B) containing 0.1 to 5% by weight of an emulsifier.

23. (currently amended) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition, ~~comprising~~ comprising:

~~mixing in a melt state 90 to 5 parts by weight of a graft copolymer (B), obtained by graft polymerizing a vinyl monomer mixture (c) with a rubber polymer, with 10 to 95 parts by weight of a copolymer (A) obtained by continuous bulk polymerization or continuous solution polymerization of a vinyl monomer mixture (a)~~
continuously bulk polymerizing or continuously solution polymerizing a vinyl monomer mixture (a) to obtain a copolymer (A);

removing residual monomer from the copolymer (A) following the continuous bulk polymerization or the continuous solution polymerization of the vinyl monomer mixture (a);

during or after the step of removing the residual monomer from the copolymer (A), adding 90 to 5 parts by weight of a graft copolymer (B) to 10 to 95 parts by weight of a copolymer (A) in a melt state and melt-blending the graft copolymer (B) and copolymer (A), said graft copolymer (B) being obtained by graft-polymerizing a vinyl monomer mixture (c) in the presence of a rubber polymer (b) and having a moisture content of 0.1% or more by weight and less than 5% by weight, the vinyl monomer mixtures (a) and (c) each being independently a monomer mixture comprising 5 to 70% by weight of (a1) aromatic vinyl monomer, 30 to 95% by weight of (a2) unsaturated carboxylic acid alkyl ester monomer, 0 to 50% by weight of (a3) vinyl cyanide monomer, and 0 to 50% by weight of (a4) another monomer copolymerizable with these monomers, and the graft copolymer (B) containing 0.1 to 30% by weight of a pelletized thermoplastic resin (C) added and mixed therewith in a melt or semi-melt state, and which is a part or the whole of the resin composition or the copolymer (A) obtained in the continuous bulk

polymerization or continuous solution polymerization of vinyl monomer mixture (a).

24-26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition according to ~~Claim~~ 25 Claim 22, wherein the graft copolymer (B) is added to the copolymer (A) when an amount of the residual monomer in the copolymer (A) is 10% by weight or less.

28. (currently added) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition according to Claim 27, wherein assuming that the actual volume of a melt-blending portion of an apparatus, in which the copolymer (A) and the graft copolymer (B) are ~~transferred while being~~ melt-blended, is V (m^3), the temperature is T ($^{\circ}C$), and the moving velocity of the resin composition finally discharged is v (kg/h), the following conditions ① and ② are satisfied:

$$4.60 \times 10^{-6} (m^3 \cdot h/kg) \leq V/v \leq 11.50 \times 10^{-6} (m^3 \cdot h/kg) \quad \dots \text{①}$$

$T \geq 230$ (°C) ... ②.

29. (currently amended) A method of producing a rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition according to ~~Claim 25~~, Claim 27 or Claim 28, wherein the graft copolymer (B) added to the copolymer (A) is in a semi-melt or melt state.